

10/594387

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :
Akira MIZUNO et al. : Mail Stop: PCT
Serial No. NEW : Attorney Docket No. 2006_1640A
Filed September 27, 2006 :

METHOD OF STERILIZATION AND
APPARATUS THEREFORE
[Corresponding to PCT/JP2005/005853
Filed March 29, 2005]

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____;
and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.
_____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the
above-entitled application, or

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before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or

b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

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3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☒ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☒ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at pages 3-4,
 - d. ☒ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☒ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- U.S. Patent No. 6,365,102; CA 2 302 888 and EP 1 040 839 correspond to JP 2000-308675; and
U.S. Patent No. 4,643,876; CA 1 264 217 and EP 0 207 417 correspond to JP 61-293465.
5. ☐ A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Akira MIZUNO et al.

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September 27, 2006

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: September 27, 2006

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2006_1640A

NEW

APPLICANT
Akira MIZUNO et al.FILING DATE
September 27, 2006

GROUP

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PCT/PTO 27 SEP 2006

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,365,102	4/2002	Wu et al.			
	AB	4,643,876	2/1987	Jacobs et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AC	2002-360672	12/2002	JP			Abstract
	AD	2000-308675	11/2000	JP			Abstract
	AE	1 040 839	10/2000	EP			
	AF	2 302 888	9/2000	CA			
	AG	61-293465	12/1986	JP			Abstract
	AH	1 264 217	1/1990	CA			
	AI	0 207 417	1/1987	EP			
	AJ	1-293871	11/1989	JP			Abstract
	AK	2003-533248	11/2003	JP			Abstract
	AL	2003-310720	11/2003	JP			Abstract
	AM	2003-159570	6/2003	JP			Abstract
	AN	2003-250868	9/2003	JP			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED